A

SERMON

Preached before the

GARRISON

OF

London-Derry,

IN THE

Extremity of the SIEGE.

Wherein is briefly and truly represented,
The Deplorable Miseries & Calamities
which they endur'd before the Arrival
of Maj. Gen. KIRK.

By the Reverend Mr. *SETH WHITTLE*, late
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Licenc'd, James Fraser.

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A Sermon Preached before the Garrison of *LONDON-DERRY*, &c.

JER. I. Verſ. xviii, xix.

For behold, I have made thee this day a defenced City, and an Iron Pillar, and Brazen Walls againſt the whole Land, againſt the Kings of Judah, againſt the Princes thereof, againſt the Prieſts thereof, and againſt the People of the Land.

And they ſhall fight againſt thee, but they ſhall not prevail againſt thee: For I am with thee, ſaith the Lord, to deliver thee.

Dearly beloved Brethren, Fellow-Actors, and Fellow-Sufferers.

THE Holy Scriptures are ſo univerſally reaching, and comprehenſive, ſo adapted to all the Neceſſities and Occaſions of Mankind, that whatſoever his Station, Calling or Imployment be, or whatſoever Temptation he may ly under, he ſhall there meet with Caution, Inſtruction and Direction, pertinent and ſufficient to guide him in all the Intricacies of Worldly Accidents, and humane Tranſactions. From this Fountain do ſpring Cordial-waters for the fainting Souls, healing for the wounded Spirits, purging for ſuperfluous and peccant Humors. In them we meet with Documents to Teach us; Precepts to awe us; Warnings to admoniſh us; Promiſes to encourage us; and Examples to lead us. We are humbled by them in Proſperity, and revived in Adverſity. When the Contrivances of our Enemies are arrived at the utmoſt pitch of Malice; When we are neglected by our Friends, perſecuted by our Foes, reduced to the utmoſt Extremities,

which are the usual Concomitants of War, and Famine; when we are deprived of all visible appearances of safety, and all probable means of escape; He that watcheth over us, and without whose superintendency the Watchman waketh but in vain, descends to visit us, to Relieve us in the Extremity of our Distress, Refreshing us with this comfortable Assurance. *For behold, I have made Thee*, &c.

The Text divideth it self easily into three Parts. First, a Gracious Declaration of the Mercy and Goodness of God to his People, in these Words; *For behold, I have made Thee*, &c.

Secondly, A firm Assurance of Protection, and Relief, in these Words; *And they shall fight against Thee, but shall not prevail against Thee.*

Thirdly, An infallible Reason to fortifie their Hopes: *For I am with Thee, saith the Lord, to deliver Thee.*

The first may be subdivided into these Considerations; First, a relative Word, *For*. Secondly, a Word of Attention, *Behold*. Thirdly, a Narration of what is done, *They are made a defenced City, an iron Pillar, and brazen Walls*. Fourthly, the Author and Original of this Strength, *I have made Thee*. Fifthly, the Adversaries against whom this Strength and Defence is made; *The whole Land, the Kings of Judah, the Princes, and the Priests*. Sixthly, the Time when, *This Day*.

The second consists, first of a Denunciation, or Warning, *They shall fight against Thee*. Secondly, a Prediction, or Incouragement, *They shall not prevail against Thee*.

The third contains a Notice given of the Presence and Assistance of God, *I am with thee*; Secondly, the Effect and Operation of his Presence, *To deliver thee*; Thirdly, the Reason and Cause, why they may expect Deliverance, *saith the Lord*.

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The word, *For*, hath a Relation to the antecedent verse of the Chapter, where the Prophet enumerats the Actions and Practices of the People of the North, That *they shall come and set every man his Throne at the entring of the Gates of* Jerusalem, *and against the Walls thereof, yet the City shall be delivered, the enemies of the North shall not prevail against it, for it is made a defenced City, an Iron Pillar, and Brazen Walls*, &c.

The word, *Behold*, commands an attention; *Look to it, and observe it, it is the Lord hath spoken it, and it shall surely come to pass.*

The time when, ought to be regarded with the greatest Joy, and Satisfaction; there shall be no delatory Proceeding, nor obstruction in their Deliverance and Safety, they shall suddenly escape, for it is done, *This Day.*

Though the Princes of the Land, confederating with the Priests, and followed by the People, shall besiege *Jerusalem*, cast up Trenches about it, assault the Walls, and execute all the Mischiefs, that Rage & Malice can inspire them with; it is to no purpose, the Attempt is altogether vain: For *it is a defenced City, an Iron Pillar, and Brazen Walls.*

The Enemies of the Lord, and his People, may fight against *Jerusalem*, they may possess the adjacent Countrey about it; they may prevent all Succors and Approaches for Relief; they may annoy them with continual Batteries without; and reduce them to Extremities by Want, Famine, and incommodious Habitation within, yet they shall not prevail, all their Endeavours and Designs shall be frustrated, and render'd of no Effect.

Let no Man entertain the least umbrage of fear or Dismay; let no man despond or be perplexed with anxious Apprehensions, tho' their Enemies proceed with Check

or Interruption; tho' their Friends and Allies may ſeem to neglect or forget them: yet they are ſecure from all Anger and Surpriſe; their Force is irreſiſtible, and their Succeſs unqueſtionable; *For the Lord is with them, and will deliver them.* Nay, they may aſſuredly rely upon it; all the Powers of the Earth cannot hinder, or diſapoint it, *For the Lord hath ſaid it.*

To apply this Text to the preſent Circumſtances in which we are.

We have been ſurrounded in this poor City for divers Months; beleaguer'd by a multitude of mercileſs and implacable Enemies; expoſed to Danger, without ceaſing or intermiſſion: we have been deſerted by thoſe who came to our Relief; tempted by Parlies, and ſpecious Terms of Capitulation; undermined by treacherous Contrivances among our ſelves; exerciſed with all the varieties of Terror and Amazement; the ſmall Shot hath poured upon us like a ſhower of Hail; the great Guns, like Thunder, have ſhaken our Walls; and the Bombs, like Lightning, have ruin'd our Houſes; we have ſeen Death in all its horrible ſhapes, and we are every Moment entertain'd with ſpectacles of Miſery and Mortality; Sickneſs and Diſeaſes are entered within our Gates; and pale Famine is viſible in every Countenance; the fond Mother hath not a Morſel of Bread to appeaſe the languiſhing cry of her ſtarved Infant: the grateful Son hath not wherewithal to ſuſtain his aged Parent: one Friend looks upon another, and ſees his Miſery, but cannot prevent a lingring Death; he that formerly had his Table cover'd with variety of Diſhes, knows not where to ſatisfie Nature with one wholeſom bit; we cannot refreſh our ſelves with ſuch Scraps and Morſels, as we formerly allow'd to

our

our Dogs; nay, we are constrain'd to eat of such things as at another time humane nature would nauseate and abhor. Nevertheless God has made us this day a defenced City, and an Iron Pillar, and Brazen Walls against the whole Land.

He that was our King, and should have treated us like a nursing *Father*, who solemnly promised, to defend the *Established* Religion, and maintain us in our Properties, has unnaturally bent his Forces to destroy us. *He* hath set up Idolatry in all corners of the Land; he hath animated the Natives to wreak their Malice and Revenge upon us; he hath brought in the bloody *French-men* and *Forreigners* to repeat those Cruelties here, which with so much Barbarity they have acted in our Neighbour-Country; the *Irish* Skene is added to the *French*-Bayonet; and the Rappeeres out-do the Dragoons. The Lords and Gentry of the *Irish* Nation, are as one Man combined against us; the Popish Priests, like the Bell-weathers of Sedition and Tumult, have led their Flocks, and involved their whole Nation in an unsatiable Thirst after our Blood, and an implacable Resolution to destroy us; our Friends round about us are plunder'd, driven from their Habitations, and the whole Country is desolate and depopulated. Yet for all this, the Almighty God hath preserved and defended us, against the Kings of *Judah*, against the Princes thereof, against the Priests thereof, and against the People of the Land.

And tho' hitherto (by the Mercy of God) we have been successful in our Resistance, and prosperous in our Sallies against them, yet they are inexorable in their Wrath, and restless in their malicious Designs; they mean to storm us, or starve us; they presume upon their great

Strength

Strength, and mighty Numbers; they flatter themselves with an assurance, that we must one day fall into their hands; that one poor City cannot long resist the united Forces of a whole Kingdom, and the auxiliary Aid of *France*. Therefore we are to expect the utmost Tryals, that their Hatred to our Religion and our Countrey can inflame and prompt them to. But let this be your comfort, tho' they shall fight against us, yet they shall not prevail against us.

For the Lord is with us, the Lord is on our side, we will not fear what Man can do unto us. Let them trust in Princes, and boast of their Horses, but we will put our trust in the Lord. Let them fall down before their Images, and vainly invoke the Angels and tutelar Saints; let them cry to the Holy Virgin to help them, and to St. *Patrick* to save them; We will make our Adresses to Him, who is only able to relieve us; our whole dependance shall be upon Him, who never faileth them that put their trust in Him, who hath said, *He is with us, to deliver us.*

Wherefore, my Beloved, let me exhort you to be stedfast in your Duty; to be importunate with God in Prayers; to cast your Care upon Him, with a lively Hope, and well-grounded *Faith*, to rouze up your wonted Courage, to arm your selves with your accustomed Resolution; to fall upon the Enemies of God and Religion, the Destroyers of your Estates and Country, the inhumane Murderers of your Friends and Brethren. Proceed with a steady assurance of Success and Victory, *For the Lord is with you, and will deliver you.*